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ARMS CONTROL

The Issue

The embryonic dialogue on arms control we have begun with the Chinese

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During Zhang's visit we will need to develop the dialogue further. Ralph Earle can do this in the separate meeting he will have with Zhang.

Background

Zhang's opening address to the Committee on Disarmament as the PRC took its seat for the first time in that forum on February 5 marked the end of an era of Chinese refusal to participate in international arms control efforts.

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Zhang is clearly the man in charge of arms control issues in Beijing, and has played a prominent role in our dialogue so far. He received State and ACDA reps (Maynes and Neidle) in Beijing in August 1979 for a discussion on UN issues which included arms control, and he met with Ambassador Seignious during Brown's visit for our first high-level meeting on the subject. During this meeting Seignious encouraged Chinese adherence to the Outer Space and Seabed Treaties, and reasserted our interest in the hot line proposal we put forward in the first working meeting held during the Brown visit.

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Our objective during Ralph Earle's meeting with Zhang on March 18 will be to engage the Chinese in more substantive discussion of key arms control issues.

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Talking Points

- We welcome the decision by the PRC to take its seat on the Committee on Disarmament.
- Our own commitment to arms control remains strong, even in these troubled times.
- The President has made clear that SALT II remains an important element of our planning for the future, and that he will ask the Senate for its ratification as soon as appropriate.
- We intend as well to carry on other important arms control efforts, such as preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- Ralph Earle, our new Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, will meet with you during your visit to share our views on these and other issues. It is our hope that our two nations will find a community of interest in promoting effective arms control as a means for enhancing international security.

ACDA/D/C/P - M. Joyce

Clearance: P - DBaker
S/P - PWilson
PM - JKahan

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